Andhra Pradesh. Srisailam Right Bank Canal was accorded investment clearance by Planning Commission in 1981. Pulichintala & Bhima Lift Irigation Scheme were accepted by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in 1996 subject to certain conditions which are yet to be complied with by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government is therefore, yet to obtain for these two projects the investment clearance from the Planning Commission. Irrigation being a State subject, the concerned State Governments are primarily responsible for planning, funding and execution etc. of all types of irrigation projects/schemes including flood control & drainage from their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Decision taken by National Water Resources Council

†3195. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held in May, 2001;

(b) if so, the main issue undertaken for consideration and decision in the meeting;

(c) whether any final decision was taken on this main issue after consideration; and

(d) if so, the details of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The last 4th meeting of National Water Resources Council was held on 7th July, 2000 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The deliberations established a consensus among the States on most of the important issues contained in the proposed draft updated National Water Policy and proposed draft National

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst the States. However, some areas were found needing further more discussions. In order to examine and for achieving greater convergence and agreement on these issues as well, a Working Group of Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers of all the States/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources was constituted on 9th October, 2000. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 22nd May, 2001 wherein the draft updated National Water Policy was deliberated upon to arrive at near consensus. The Working Group was unanimous on all the provisions of the draft policy except provisions on "Setting up of river Basin Organizations" and "Water Allocation amongst States." A Core Group under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Water Resources with the Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu as its members was constituted to arrive at a consensus on the above two provisions of the draft updated National Water Policy. The Core Group has submitted its report which would be discussed in the next meeting of the Working Group. After finalisation of the draft policy by the Working Group, the same would be considered by the National Water Resources Council for its approval.

Content of fluorine in ground water in Karnataka districts

3196. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 299 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th July, 2001 and state whether Government are aware that due to higher content of fluorine in water there are many cases of water borne diseases in some districts of Karnataka; if so, the remedial measures taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Fluride, beyond permissible limits has been observed in some habitations in many districts of Karnataka. The excess fluoride in drinking water causes dental and skeletal fluorosis.

Provision of safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water